

REMARKS

This paper is submitted following the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due dated August 29, 2006 (the "Notice of Allowance").

Claims 1-228 and 233-236 were previously pending and allowed.

Claims 5, 13, 19, 24, 32, 36, 38, 43, 51, 55, 57, 58, 62, 70, 74, 76, 79, 99, 114, 117, 137, 152, 155, 175, 190, 193, 213, and 228 have been amended in this paper.

Claim 66 has been canceled in this paper. No new claims have been added in this paper.

Accordingly, claims 1-65 and 67-228 and 233-236 are now pending.

The claims have been amended to more clearly indicate the scope of the claims. These amendments also add no new matter.

This paper and the accompanying RCE are submitted to withdraw the application from issue so that the above amendments may be entered. The *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure* (ed. 8, rev. 5) provides:

If the applicant wishes to have an application withdrawn from issue, he or she must petition the Director under 37 CFR 1.313(a) or file a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 with a submission and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e). A submission may be an information disclosure statement (37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98) or an amendment. . . . If an applicant files a RCE (with the fee and a submission), the applicant need not pay the issue fee to avoid abandonment of the application.

(MPEP § 1308(I)(A) (emphasis added).) Further, 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(a) provides that a petition to withdraw from issue "is not required if a request for continued examination under § 1.114 is filed

prior to payment of the issue fee.” Applicant therefore requests entry of the above amendments in view of the accompanying RCE.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the claims remain in a condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits a notice to that effect. Should any issues arise that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450, on November 29, 2006.

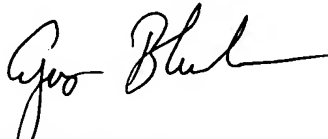


Attorney for Applicant

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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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